

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide that

(a) comprises a first amino acid sequence at least 70 contiguous amino acids in length that is identical to a region of a wild type HBV core protein;

(b) lacks a second amino acid sequence of the wild type HBV core protein, wherein the second sequence comprises the carboxyterminal three amino acids of the wild type HBV core protein and does not exceed nine amino acids in length; and

(c) reduces hepadnavirus replication,

wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter selected from the group consisting of hepatocyte-specific, cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus, hepatitis virus, Rous sarcoma virus and Simian Virus 40 promoters and ~~The nucleic acid of claim 2,~~ wherein the carboxyterminal amino acid of the first amino acid sequence corresponds to position 175 or 178 of SEQ ID NO: 12.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide that

(a) comprises a first amino acid sequence at least 70 contiguous amino acids in length that is identical to a region of a wild type hepadnavirus core protein;

(b) lacks a second amino acid sequence of the wild type hepadnavirus core protein, wherein the second sequence comprises the carboxyterminal three amino acids of the wild type hepadnavirus core protein;

(c) comprises a third amino acid sequence that is identical to a portion of a wild type hepadnavirus surface protein; and

(d) reduces hepadnavirus replication,  
wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter selected from the group consisting of hepatocyte-specific, cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus, hepatitis virus, Rous sarcoma virus and Simian Virus 40 promoters and ~~The nucleic acid of claim 5,~~ wherein the carboxyterminal amino acid of the first amino acid sequence corresponds to position 171, 175 or 178 of SEQ ID NO: 12.

23. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide that

(a) comprises an amino acid sequence identical to amino acids 1 to 171, 1 to 172, or 1 to 173 of SEQ ID NO:12; and

(b) reduces hepadnavirus replication,  
wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter selected from the group consisting of hepatocyte-specific, cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus, hepatitis virus, Rous sarcoma virus and Simian Virus 40 promoters.

24. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 23.

25. (Previously presented) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 23.

26 to 37 (Canceled)